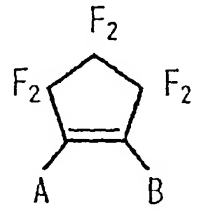
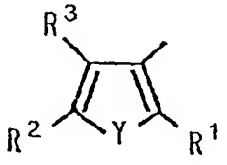
LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A photochromic material comprising a compound, belonging to the diheteroarylethene class, represented by the following general formula [I]:

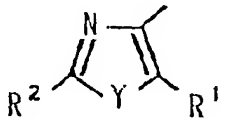


... [I]

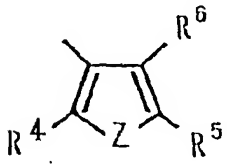
wherein, in the general formula [I], A represents the following substituents [i] or [ii], and B represents the following substituents [iii] or [iv];



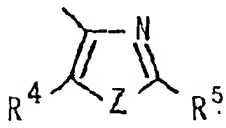
...[i]



...[ii]



...[iii]



...[iv]

wherein, in the substituents [i] and [ii], R1 represents an alkoxy group, R2 represents -Q-Ar, Q representing a direct bond or an arbitrary divalent group and Ar representing an aromatic hydrocarbon ring or an aromatic heterocycle which are optionally substituted, R3 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a fluoroalkyl group, a cyano group, or an aryl group which is optionally substituted, and Y represents -O- or -S-; and

in the substituents [iii] and [iv], R4 represents an alkoxy group, R5 represents -Q-Ar, Q representing a direct bond or an arbitrary divalent group and Ar representing an aromatic hydrocarbon ring or an aromatic heterocycle which are optionally substituted, R6 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a fluoroalkyl group, a cyano group, or an aryl group which is optionally substituted, and Z represents -O- or -S-.

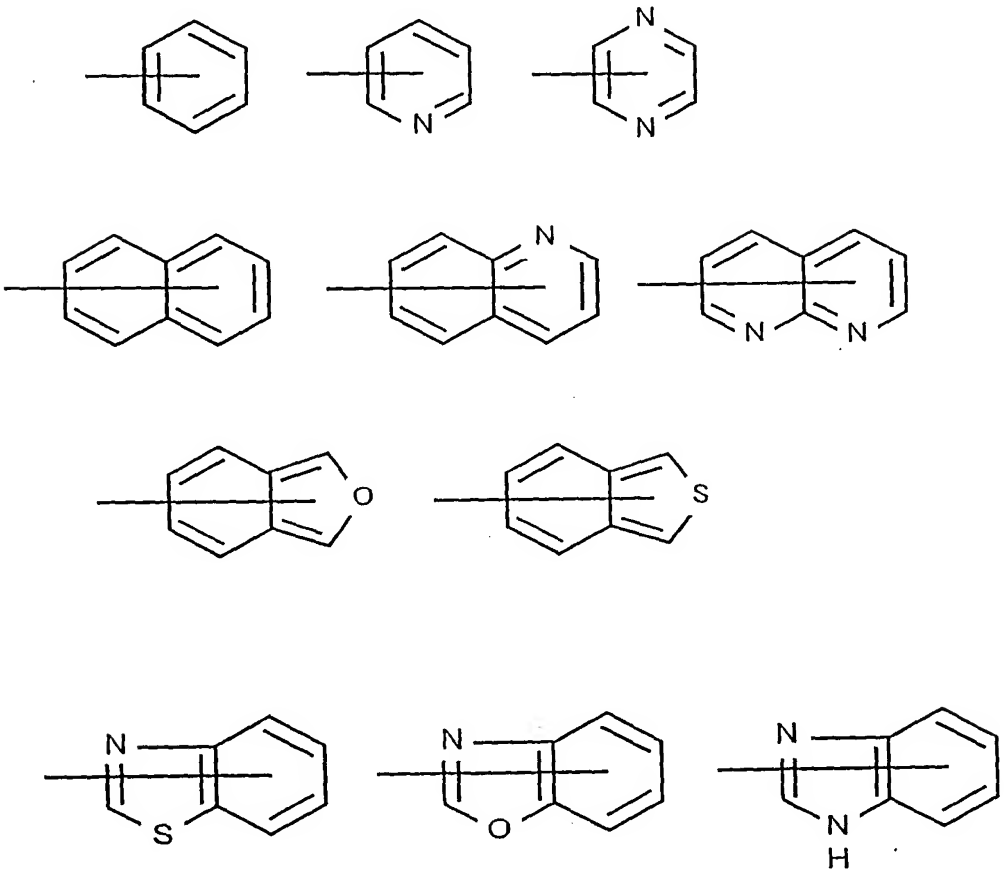
2. (Original) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ring opening quantum yield is 10-3 or lower.

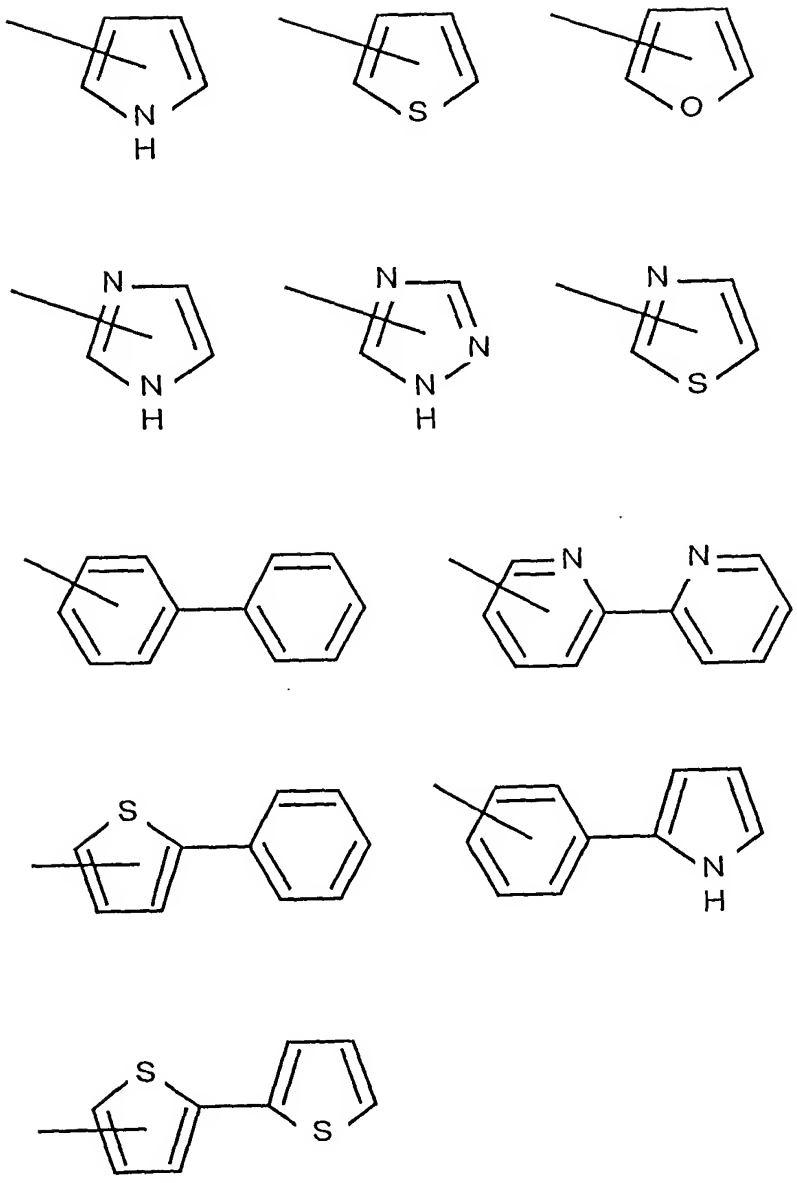
3. (Currently Amended) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein R1 and R4 in the substituents [i]-[iv] of said general formula [I] each comprise independently an alkoxy group having 1-3 carbon atoms.

4. (Original) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 3, wherein R1 and R4 each comprise a methoxy group.

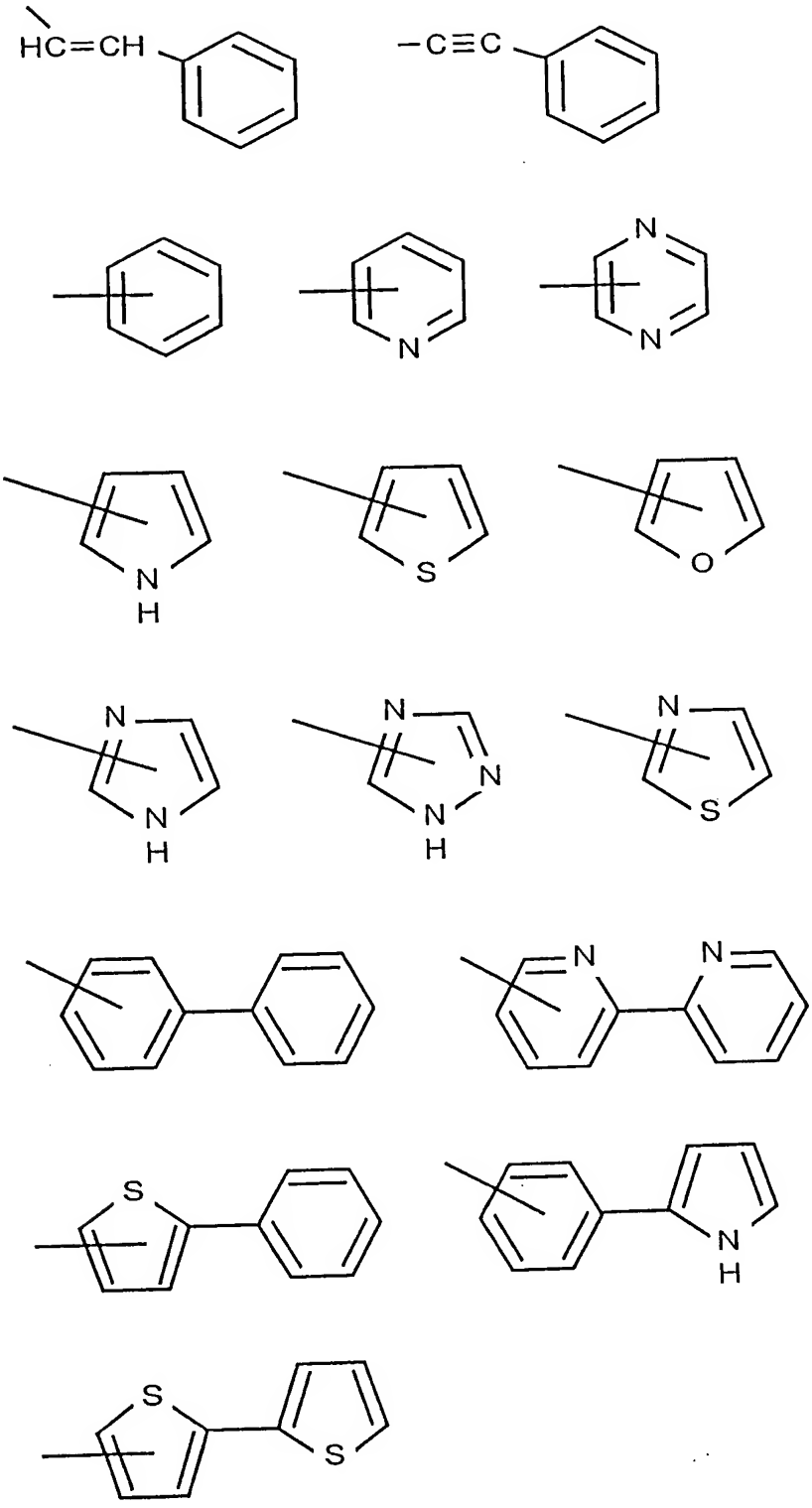
5. (Currently Amended) A photochromic material described in ~~anyone of claims 1-4~~ claim 1 wherein Q in Q-Ar corresponding to R2 and R5 in the substituents [i]-[iv] of said general formula [I] each comprise independently a direct bond, -(-CH=CH-)n- (i.e. a polyethylene group) (wherein n = 1-5), or -(-C≡C-)n- (i.e. a polyacetylene group) (wherein n = 1-5), whereby Ar comprises a single 5- or 6-member ring, or two or three 5- or 6-member rings directly bonded or condensed, each of said rings being optionally substituted.

6. (Original) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 5, wherein Ar in Q-Ar corresponding to R2 and R5 is selected independently from the group consisting of the following formulae:



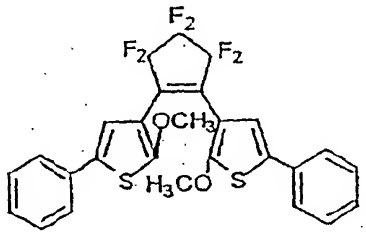


7. (Original) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein R2 and R5 are each selected independently from the group consisting of the following formulae:


HC=CH
−C≡C
N
N
N
N
N
H
S
O
N
N
H
N
N
N
H
N
S
S
N
H
S
S

8. (Currently Amended) A photochromic material described in ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~ claim 1, wherein R3 and R6 each comprise independently a linear alkyl group.

9. (Currently Amended) A photochromic material described in ~~any one of claims 1 through 8~~ claim 1, wherein the photochromic material comprises a compound, belonging to the diheteroarylethene class, selected from the group consisting of the following formulae:



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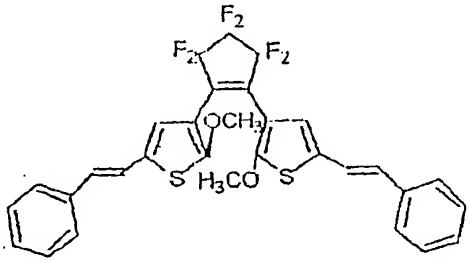

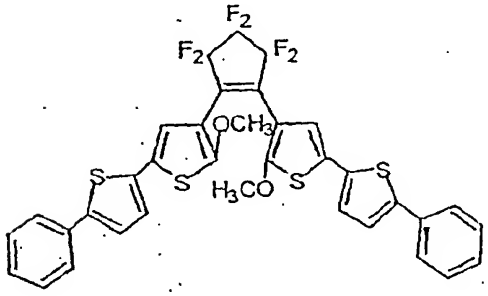

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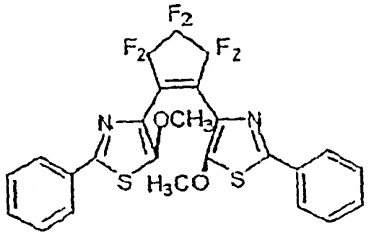

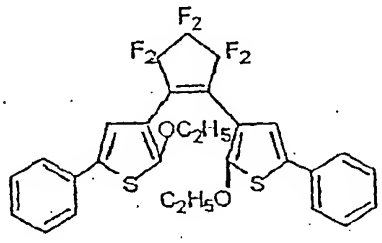

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